

March 13, 2003

To: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair
Supervisor Don Knabe, Chair Pro Tem
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: Marjorie Kelly
Interim Director

DCFS QUARTERLY REPORT

I am pleased to submit this newly formatted quarterly report. We have changed the report to provide data on important DCFS program areas and functions. The data have been divided into categories of safety, permanence and well-being, consistent with the direction this Department is taking.

I think you will find this report interesting and thought provoking. Consistent with the discussions we have had over the last seven months, the data shows that children in this County remain in care too long. The development of Wraparound, Permanency Teams, other multi-disciplinary teams and other permanency planning actions being undertaken in the Department should positively impact the length of stay and improve permanence for children.

These data also point out some positive trends. New entries, re-entries, and the number of children in foster care have trended downward over the past few years. Children's placements are stable relative to State and Federal indicators.

This is our beginning effort to describe our results and processes through regular data reports. We welcome your reactions to this report, your feedback on what you find useful and your ideas on what you would like to see included in future quarterly reports. Additional reports can and will be developed on a variety of programs and outcomes for children and their families.

Finally, a cautionary note; some measures are more accurate than others in telling the story of results. Data must be interpreted and explained to ensure that they do not overstate or understate what is being measured. We have included footnotes with each

Each Supervisor

March 13, 2003

Page 2

chart to assist the viewer in understanding the limitations of the report and to better understand what is and is not included in each chart.

We look forward to discussing these data with you and to hearing your reactions so that we may continue to improve our presentations with future reports.

MK:mdd

Attachment

c: Chief Administrative Officer
Interagency Children's Services Consortium
Children's Planning Council
Commission for Children and Families